

RESEARCH SUBJECT: Nurses' Decision-Making in Different Clinical  
Environments

STUDENT: Anita R. Austin

DEGREE: Masters of Science

COLLEGE: College of Applied Sciences and Technology

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In the current hospital environment, professional nurses are charged with patient safety and are to respond as the first response team on nursing units. Nurses need clinical-decision-making skills to provide safe and competent care. Different nursing practice may result in different types of decisions (Bakalis & Watson, 2005). The purpose of this quantitative exploratory study is to identify and compare what clinical decisions are made by nurses in different clinical environments; medical, surgical and intensive care units. This is a replication of the Bakalis and Watson's (2005) study. The study by Bakalis and Watson (2005) did not elect to directly apply a decision-making theory due to the scope of clinical areas involved in the study. However, Bakalis and Watson (2005) reference a study by Rhodes (1985) which states, models of practice are effectively decision-making models. The sample will consist of 120 medical, surgical and ICU registered nurses from a large Midwestern Urban Hospital. The Clinical Decision-Making Questionnaire (CDMQ) will consider 3 factors of decision-making; direct patient care, supervision and management decisions, and decisions related to nurses extended roles (Bakalis & Watson, 2005). The findings of this study will identify what clinical decisions are made in clinical settings.